

while major media networks and corporations have fought against even the distribution of Fahrenheit 911, Sinclair Broadcasting has already shown their readiness to force their political opinions on the public by denying them access to the Nightline show which honored Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to FORCE their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This kind of flagrant abuse of the public trust warrants more than a reinstatement of the Fairness doctrine. Perhaps it is time for more stringent rules and fines for such corporate abusers.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.